

## Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10  
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R 212234Z JUN 77  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4141  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA PASS AMB WELLS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM  
SUBJECT: US POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. FOLLOWING ARE THE MISSION'S INITIAL COMMENTS ON THE  
IO DRAFT MEMO TO D/HA CONCERNING US POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS.  
OUR COMMENTS ALSO CORRESPOND TO THE ISSUES RAISED IN PRM/  
NSC-28.

2. AMONG "BASIC FACTORS" UPON WHICH AN ACTION AGENDA  
MUST REST, MISSION WOULD PUT PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON THE SEARCH  
FOR A COMMONLY ACCEPTED CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ALTHOUGH  
THE BASIC DOCUMENTS (UNIVERSAL DECLARATION, COVENANT ON  
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, AND COVENANT ON  
CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS) CONTAIN A BROAD CONCEPT OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS, THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF UN ACTIVITIES DURING  
THE FIRST 20 YEARS WAS ON INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL AND CIVIL  
RIGHTS. THIS REFLECTED THE PREOCCUPATION OF WESTERN  
COUNTRIES. LOWEST PRIORITY WAS ACCORDED TO ECONOMIC RIGHTS,  
AND THE BASIC QUESTION OF GROUP VERSUS INDIVIDUAL  
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RIGHTS WAS ALMOST TOTALLY IGNORED.

3. WITH THE LARGE INCREASE IN UN MEMBERSHIP OF  
COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD, THIS WESTERN PREOCCUPA-  
TION WAS CALLED INTO SERIOUS QUESTION. FOR DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND, IN PARTICULAR THE  
RIGHTS OF GROUPS (I.E., NATION STATES), ARE PREDOMI-

NANT. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THE G77'S CONCERNS WITH RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND APARTHEID DO NOT FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BUT ON A GENERAL SITUATION.

4. ACCORDINGLY, IT WOULD SEEM TO US THAT THE FIRST PRIORITY IN THE US ACTION AGENDA WOULD BE TO WORK TOWARD RE-ESTABLISHING A UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. PRESIDENT CARTER'S NOTRE DAME SPEECH, SECRETARY VANCE'S LAW DAY SPEECH, AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ECOSOC AND ECLA SPEECHES, AND OTHER, RECENT US PRONOUNCEMENTS PROVIDE A SUFFICIENT BASIS FOR OUR RE-EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF "ECONOMIC RIGHTS" AS A PART OF AN INTEGRATED APPROACH. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT MANY, IF NOT MOST, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHARE CONCERN ABOUT TRADITIONAL POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS. IT IS, THUS, NOT A QUESTION OF "OUR RIGHTS" VERSUS "THEIR RIGHTS" BUT SIMPLY FINDING A BASIS FOR REAFFIRMING AND RE-EMPHASIZING OUR COMMON PERCEPTIONS.

5. THE ACHIEVING OF THIS COMMON FRAMEWORK WILL MAKE INSTITUTIONAL IMPROVEMENTS MUCH EASIER. CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO SEEKING IN THE 32D GA THE CONVOCA-TION OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (OR OTHER APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL BODY) IN 1978, THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION, FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PURPOSE OF REAFFIRMING AND/OR REDEFINING A UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. ON THE BASIS OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT, THE SPECIAL SESSION MIGHT ALSO CONSIDER WAYS OF IMPROVING THE MACHINERY SO AS TO MAKE UN ACTIVITIES IN THIS FIELD MORE EFFECTIVE.

6. THE ABOVE DOES NOT REMOVE THE NEED TO DEAL WITH DAY-TO-DAY HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN UN FORA. THE MISSION WILL COMMENT LATER ON THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM.  
YOUNG

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION DHA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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